



**Cal EMA**  
CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## NEWS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Cal EMA Secretary Urges Californians to Prepare for Incoming Storms**

MATHER, Calif. – Secretary Matthew Bettenhausen of the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) today urged Californians to prepare for significant rainfall and snow, high winds and cold temperatures throughout the state over the next several days.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), California's coastal, valley and foothill communities are expected to experience significant rainfall over the next several days while residents of the Sierras could receive significant snowfall and high winds.

"We are monitoring the situation closely and the state stands ready to support local response efforts if needed," said Bettenhausen. "Although the storm systems aren't expected to be as severe as in years past, it's still important for everyone to prepare for potential power outages, flooded roadways and cold temperatures."

To prepare for the incoming storms, Cal EMA, on Friday, coordinated a conference call between NWS regional offices serving California and stakeholders from key state and federal agencies such as the Department of Water Resources, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFIRE), the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers; private-sector organizations such as the California Utilities Emergency Association; as well as volunteer organizations such as the American Red Cross and Salvation Army.

In addition, Cal EMA's regional offices in Los Alamitos, Mather and Oakland have been conducting conference calls with NWS offices and county emergency managers to ensure situational awareness and assess potential resource needs. Personnel from Caltrans and CHP have been working together to prepare for road closures that could be prompted by heavy snows, and more than 50 California Conservation Corps hand crews have completed flood fight training and are prepared for potential deployment.

Secretary Bettenhausen urged residents of low-lying and coastal areas to prepare for localized urban flooding, residents living in and below recent burn areas to prepare for the possibility of debris flows and people traveling through the High Sierra to be prepared for possible road closures.

Secretary Bettenhausen recommended that Californians who haven't already done so develop a family emergency plan and assemble or purchase an emergency supply kit.

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Emergency plans should include the name and phone number of out-of-town contact, safe routes from your home or business to higher ground and a place to reunite if you and family members are separated. Emergency supply kits should include at least a three-day supply of food and water for each family member, first aid supplies and medicines as well as cash, battery operated radios and flashlights, extra batteries and a manual can opener.

If they haven't already done so, Californians who have developed their emergency plans and assembled or purchased emergency supply kits should winterize buildings that could be used as shelter by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather stripping doors, clearing rain gutters and trimming tree branches.

The Cal EMA Secretary also recommended Californians obtain sandbags from their local Public Works department and that people with access and functional needs make sure battery operated wheelchairs, breathing machines and other pieces of equipment are properly charged.

During the inclement weather, residents should listen to the radio or watch television to obtain information about the latest forecast and instructions from local officials, use telephones only for emergency calls, avoid driving if possible and cooperate with emergency officials.

Additional preparedness information is available at <http://www.calema.ca.gov>.

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